

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

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P R 030750Z APR 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3497

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH, SCUL

SUBJECT: CHINESE PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE CANCELLATION

1. NCNA APRIL 2 ISSUED ITEM ON CANCELLATION OF THE CHINESE PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE TOUR SUPPOSEDLY BASED ON A REPORTER'S INTERVIEW WITH THE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION AND AN MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. AFTER NOTING CHINESE PREPARATIONS FOR THE TOUR, ITEM SAID "US STATE DEPARTMENT UNREASONABLY DEMANDED" THE CHINESE SIDE REMOVE THE TAIWAN SONG BECAUSE A SONG ON THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN WAS UNACCEPTABLE, AND SET A DEADLINE FOR A CHINESE REPLY. ITEM CALLS THIS ACTION "ENTIRELY GROUNDLESS", ARGUES NO FAULT CAN BE FOUND WITH SONG, AND CALLS LIBERATION OF TAIWAN AN INTERNAL AFFAIR AND A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FOR THE CHINESE.

2. IN ECHO OF EARLIER STATEMENT BY HINTON GROUP, ITEM SAYS "IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE THE US GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED THAT THERE IS BUT ONE CHINA AND THAT TAIWAN IS A PART OF CHINA. IF THE US SIDE WERE NOT RETREATING FROM THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR IT TO OBJECT TO THE INCLUSION OF THIS SONG IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF THE CHINESE TROUPE." IT CONCLUDES WITH THE AFFIRMATION THAT CHINESE SIDE ABIDES BY PRINCIPLES OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, THAT PROMOTION OF CONTACTS IS COMMON DESIRE OF TWO

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COUNTRIES WHICH CHINESE SIDE ACTIVELY SUPPORTS, BUT CHINESE "WILL

NEVER BARTER AWAY PRINCIPLES".

3.

APRIL 3 PEOPLES DAILY AND PEKING RADIO CARRIED ITEM ALONGSIDE
REPORT OF CHU TEH MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN ALBERT AND RHODES.
PEOPLE'S DAILY INCLUDES PICTURE OF ALBERT/RHODES MEETING.

4. COMMENT: NCNA'S UNUSUAL USE OF THE "INTERVIEW" FORMAT TO MAKE
THEIR POINTS AND THE CAREFUL JUXTAPOSITION WITH THE ALBERT/RHODES
STORY APPEARS TO BE A CLEAR EFFORT TO HAVE THEIR SAY BUT AT A
MINIMAL LEVEL. THE SIX-DAY DELAY IN RESPONDING PUBLICLY TO THE
CANCELLATION SUGGESTS CONSIDERABLE DEBATE AT HIGH LEVELS ON HOW
TO RESPOND. WE BELIEVE CHINESE BADLY MISCALCULATED ON THIS ONE
AND UNDERESTIMATED THE PROBABLE U.S. REACTION, AND THEY NOW
REALIZE THIS. THE NCNA ITEM ON THE CANCELLATION AND RECENT
COMMENTS BY HIGH-LEVEL CHINESE TO US ON THE MATTER SEEMS TO INDICATE
THAT THE CHINESE ARE NOW ANXIOUS TO CUT THEIR LOSSES ON THIS ONE
AND LET IT DROP.

5. APROPOS OF LEVEL AT WHICH ISSUE ADDRESSED AND PROBLEMS IT
CAUSED THE CHINESE, NANCY TANG (DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AND
OCEANIC DEPARTMENT AND ALSO AN ALTERNATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER)
TOLD
USLO OFFICER AT DINNER FOR ALBERT/RHODES APRIL 2 THAT "YOU HAVE BEEN
CAUSING US SOME TROUBLE LATELY". WE SUSPECT A FEW PEOPLE MAY HAVE
BEEN BURNED BY THEIR ADVICE ON THIS ONE.
BUSH

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